

U.S. Appln. No. 09/931,660
Reply to Office Action dated September 23, 2005

PATENT
450100-03393

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An information-processing apparatus for transmitting data through a network, comprising:

judgment means for forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated ~~whether~~ an action for transferring data through said network ~~has been taken by a transmission side or a reception side;~~

multiplexing means for multiplexing a ~~positive or negative~~ unit cost per unit data and a first magnitude in said data transferred through said network ~~on the basis of a result of~~ when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a first party and for multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a second magnitude in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a second party; and

transmission means for transmitting said data multiplexed with said unit cost by said multiplexing means through said network.

2. (Currently Amended) An information-processing method for information-processing apparatus for transmitting data through a network, said method comprising:

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a judgment step of forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated
~~whether an action for transferring data through said network has been taken by a transmission~~
~~side or a reception side;~~

a multiplexing step of multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a first magnitude
in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment
means judges that the action was initiated by a first party and for multiplexing a unit cost per unit
data and a second magnitude in said data transferred through said network when said judgment
formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a second party a positive
~~or negative unit cost per unit data in said data transferred through said network on the basis of a~~
~~result of said judgment formed at said judgment step; and~~

a transmission step of transmitting said data multiplexed with said unit cost at said
multiplexing step through said network.

3. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for recording a computer-readable
program of an information-processing apparatus for transmitting data through a network, said
computer-readable program comprising:

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated
~~whether an action for transferring data through said network has been taken by a transmission~~
~~side or a reception side;~~

a multiplexing step of multiplexing a unit cost per unit data and a first magnitude
in said data transferred through said network when said judgment formed by said judgment
means judges that the action was initiated by a first party and for multiplexing a unit cost per unit
data and a second magnitude in said data transferred through said network when said judgment

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formed by said judgment means judges that the action was initiated by a second party~~positive or negative unit cost per unit data in said data transferred through said network on the basis of a result of said judgment formed at said judgment step; and~~

a transmission step of transmitting said data multiplexed with said unit cost at said multiplexing step through said network.

4. (Currently Amended) An accounting-processing apparatus for settling accounting for data exchanged through a network, comprising:

judgment means for forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated~~whether an action for transferring data through said network has been taken by a transmission side or a reception side; and~~

accounting means for ~~driving~~determining~~said transmission side or said reception side~~the party determined by said judgment means to be a side initiating an action for transferring data through said network to settle accounting for said data transferred through said network.

5. (Original) An accounting-processing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

first acquisition means for acquiring an amount of data exchanged through said network; and

second acquisition means for acquiring a unit price per unit data for data exchanged through said network,

wherein said accounting means computes a price of transferred data on the basis of an amount of data acquired by said first acquisition means and a unit price acquired by said

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second acquisition means.

6. (Original) An accounting-processing apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said second acquisition means further acquires a sign of said unit price, and said accounting means drives said transmission side or said reception side determined to be a side not initiating an action for transferring data through said network to settle accounting in case said sign is negative.

7. (Currently Amended) An accounting-processing method for an accounting-processing apparatus for settling accounting for data exchanged through a network, said method comprising:

a judgment step of forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated ~~whether an action for transferring data through a network has been taken by a transmission side or a reception side;~~ and

an accounting step of determining driving the party said transmission side or said reception side determined at said judgment step to be a side initiating an action for transferring data through said network to settle accounting for said data transferred through said network.

8. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for recording a computer-readable program of an accounting-processing apparatus for processing an accounting process of data transmitted through a network, said computer-readable program comprising:

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a judgment step of forming a judgment as to which of at least two parties initiated
~~whether an action for transferring data through said network has been taken by a transmission~~
~~side or a reception side~~; and

an accounting step of determining driving the party said transmission side or said
~~reception side~~ determined at said judgment step to be a side initiating an action for transferring
data through said network to settle accounting for said data transferred through said network.